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Typed or Printed Name	Susan M. Alessi		
Signature	<i>Susan M. Alessi</i>	Date	05-24-2002

Preliminary Amendment Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	STAN209
	First Named Inventor	R. Kuo
	Application Number	09/733,266
	Filing Date	December 8, 2000
	Group Art Unit	1651
	Examiner Name	V. Afremova
	Title	Methods for Modulation of Oocyte Activation

Sir:

Prior to further continued examination, please make the following changes, which were not entered in Applicant's amendment after final office action.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the pending claims with the correspondingly numbered claims below. Claims amended herein are noted by the text in parentheses. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment; captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

D1 *Sub E1* 1. (twice amended) A method of activating an oocyte *in vitro*, the method comprising: contacting said oocyte with nitric oxide (NO), an NO donor, nitric oxide synthase (NOS), or inducer of NOS; and, maintaining said oocyte until the oocyte has undergone at least one cell division, wherein said activation is performed in the absence of sperm and wherein said maintaining step indicates that the oocyte is activated.

D2 *Sub E2* 5. (twice amended) A method of inhibiting oocyte activation during fertilization *in vitro*, the method comprising: contacting said oocyte with a nitric oxide synthase inhibitor; and